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PAINKILLER CLANNE DARKHYLDE™



PAINKILLER JANE DARKCHYLDE

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COVER 3

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**EVENT
COMICS**



AMY KEEGAN HAS
HAD THIS DREAM
BEFORE...

...LOST ON A VAST AND
STRANGE LANDSCAPE,
ON THE RUN FROM SOME
UNKNOWN TERROR...

...FOR ALL OF ITS NEAR-CRIPPLING
DREAD, AMY KNOWS THAT SHE HAS
BEEN HERE, DONE THIS TOO MANY
TIMES TO COUNT. THAT'S WHY SHE
WENT TO THE DOCTOR.



AS ALWAYS IN THIS INCESSANTLY
RECURRING NIGHTMARE, AMY
FINDS HERSELF DISORIENTED,
TERRIFIED AND EXHAUSTED...

...STILL, AS PREORDAINED, SHE
RUNS ON -- FOLLOWED EVER-
CLOSER BY THE THUNDER OF
HER STALKER'S APPROACH.



THE AIR PULSES WITH THE
FIERCE BEATING OF HUGE
LEATHERY WINGS,

IN MERE SECONDS THE THING
WILL BE ON HER... AND THE
DANCE SHE KNOWS TOO WELL
WILL APPROACH ITS CRESCENDO.



NOW THE BEAST REACHES
HER. NOW HIS HUGE
CLAWED FIST SPEARS
OUT TO TRAP HER...

...NOW, AS ALWAYS,
AMY KEEGAN WILL
WAKE SCREAMING
IN HER OWN BED...

WEEE!

...ANY MOMENT NOW, ANY
WILL WAKE AND THIS HORROR
WILL BE BUT A HATED, IF
FAMILIAR, MEMORY.

ANY
MOMENT...

MY
GOD --
I CAN'T
WAKE
UP!

AIEEE!

GRAAAARRRH

LOST IN A DREAM



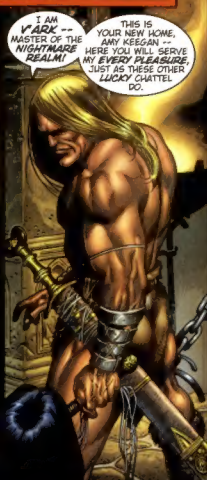


AH,
SHARD -- YOU
HAVE BROUGHT
THE LOVELY
AMY? VERY
GOOD...



...SHE
CAN TAKE HER
PLACE AMONG HER
SISTERS IN MY
HAREM.

PLEASE...?
WH-WHO ARE
Y-YOU...?



I AM
VARK --
MASTER OF THE
NIGHTMARE
REALM!

THIS IS
YOUR NEW HOME,
AMY KEEGAN --
HERE YOU WILL SERVE
MY EVERY PLEASURE,
JUST AS THESE OTHER
LUCKY CHATTEL
DO.



GROW
ACCUSTOMED
TO IT QUICKLY,
GIRL -- YOU
WILL NEVER
LEAVE.

WHY
AM I...?
HERE...?

AS A KID, I USED TO DREAM OF THIS AWFUL PLACE A LOT -- ALWAYS PRAYING THAT IT WAS A FIGMENT OF MY YOUNG IMAGINATION. AS I'VE GROWN, I'VE LEARNED THAT IT'S ALL TOO REAL.

I'VE ALSO SINCE DISCOVERED THE CURSE OF THE DARKCHYLDE -- TO BE DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THIS NIGHTMARE REALM, AND WORSE, TO CHANNEL AND BECOME ANY DEMONIC BEING THAT STALKS THIS DREADFUL LANDSCAPE. BUT THAT'S ONLY WHEN I'M AWAKE.

NOW THAT I'M ASLEEP, I SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DRAWN INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S NIGHTMARE... BUT, HOW? WHY?

THEY CALL ME PAINKILLER JANE -- AND SO FAR, I'VE LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT. I'M NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL, BUT REASONABLY EASY TO HURT. I TRY TO HELP OTHERS BY KILLING THEIR PAIN, AND TAKING IT ON MYSELF. NOT A SMART PLAN, I UNDERSTAND.

MAYBE I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME STICKING MY NOSE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S TROUBLE TO TAKE MY MIND OFF MY OWN... MAYBE I DO IT JUST TO FILL THE LONG AGONIZING HOURS.

MAYBE I WHINE TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT CAN'T BE CHANGED.

A FRIEND'S DAUGHTER WAS A PATIENT, AND I'D BEEN ASKED TO FIND OUT WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THE GUY HAD DONE TO HER.

MY FRIEND'S DAUGHTER CAME TO THIS GUY WITH A SLEEP DISORDER, AND LAPPED INTO A COMA -- AND APPARENTLY SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE...

MS. VASKO? I AM DR. VICTOR ARKADIN -- I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. DO COME IN...

THE
ARKADIN
CLINIC
SLEEP DISORDERS
HYPNOTHERAPY

337-1217

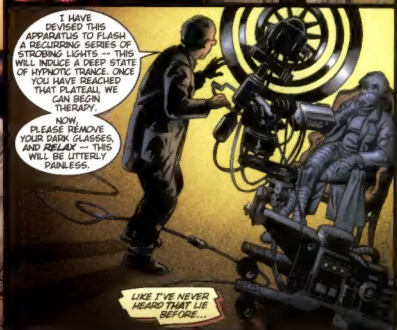
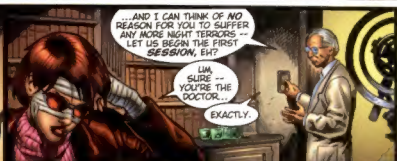
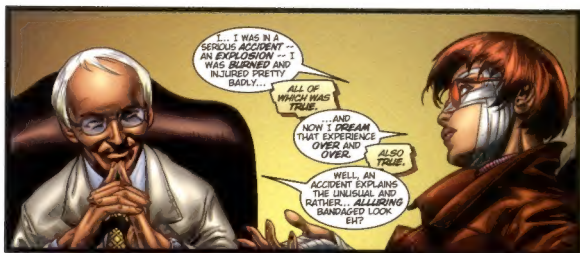
IN ANY CASE, I WAS ON THE JOB THAT DAY, GOING TO SEE A DOCTOR WITH A LOUSY BEDSIDE MANNER.

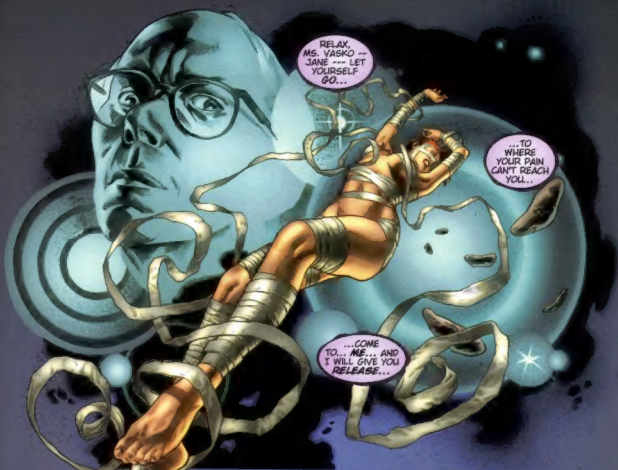
...SEVERAL OTHER YOUNG WOMEN HAVE HAD THE SAME REACTION TO WHATEVER TREATMENT THIS DOCTOR USES.

PLEASE, MS. VASKO, SIT DOWN, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE...

...AND TELL ME HOW I MIGHT HELP YOU WITH YOUR SLEEP PROBLEM.

DID I MENTION THAT I WAS WORKING THIS UNDERCOVER -- AS A PATIENT?





RELAX,
MS. YASKO --
JANE --- LET
YOURSELF
GO...

...TO
WHERE
YOUR PAIN
CAN'T REACH
YOU...

...COME
TO... ME... AND
I WILL GIVE YOU
RELEASE...



...FOR
ONLY I CAN
EASE YOUR
SUFFERING...
...COME...



...TO A
BETTER
PLACE...

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME..?
BETTER
THAN
WHAT?



PLACE LOOKS
LIKE SATAN'S OLD
NEIGHBORHOOD...

GRRRR

...OR MAYBE
HE HADN'T
LEFT YET.

PLIT ME
DOWN
BUTT-FACE --
YOU CAN'T --

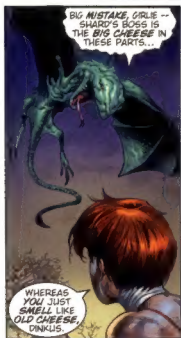
BUT I
CAN, MORSEL,
I AM EASILY SIX
TIMES YOUR SIZE --
AND MY MASTER
V'ARK IS ABSOLUTE
SOVEREIGN OF THIS
REALM. ...

YOU ARE
HIS PROPERTY
NOW, AND THERE
IS NOTHING YOU
CAN DO ABOUT
IT.



AHH --
BY NOBE --
OOO HUDD BY
NOBE!

OOH,
SHARD -- THAT
MUST'VE STUNG!
I THOUGHT THESE
L'L GALS DIDN'T
FIGHT BACK...?



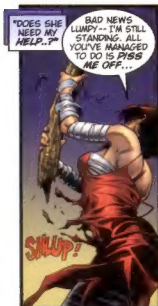
WHEREAS
YOU JUST
SMELL LIKE
OLD CHEESE,
DINKUS.

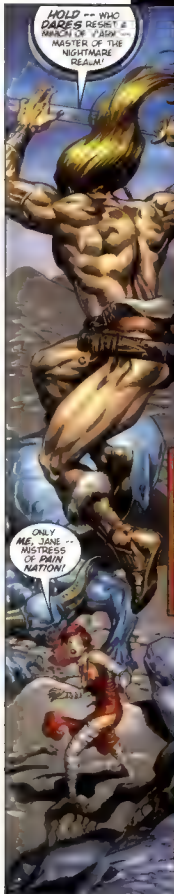


SURE...
IN A SEC...
DINKUS.



RIGHT --
WITH MY NOW-
SHATTERED BODY!
GET OVER YOURSELF!
YEE-OWWWWW!







LITTLE
MATTER YOU
ARE HERE YOU
ARE MINE.

BRING
THE YASKO
WOMAN, SHARD
I FEEL A PARTY
COMING ON

YEB
MASTER

* I COULD HAVE MANIFESTED A NIGHTMARE
FORM, I'D HAVE SHREDDED THAT PIG TO
BACON, BUT INSIDE THE REALM, I WAS
NOTHING MORE THAN ARIE, CHYLDE
EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE
THAT I WAS ACTUALLY
WISHING FOR MY CURSE
TO KICK-IN

FOR ALL THE
GOOD WISHING
DID

YOUR
PRESENCE HERE
S WELCOME, IF
PUZZLING BEAUTY I
DISCOVERED THIS
REALM -- I ALONE
CONTROL IT

NOTHING
EXISTS HERE
APART FROM
THAT WHICH I
WILL...

WHAT A
DECIDED AND PATHETIC
GULLION. HE THINKS HE
CAN CROSS OVER FROM
EARTH AND RULE WHAT
HE DOESN'T EVEN
COMPREHEND.

STILL...
IT IS TRUE
THAT HE SOMEHOW
HAS THE ABILITY
TO TRAVERSE
TWIXT THE TWO
REALMS.

AND
THAT POWER IN THE
HANDS OF SOMEONE TRULY
WORTHY -- ME PERCHANCE --
WOULD BE FORMIDABLE!

AND
WITH IT I WILL
MAKE BOTH
WORLDS
MINE!

IT ALL BEGAN TO MAKE SENSE --
IF YOU COULD CALL IT THAT. THE
FABIO-WANNABE WAS VICTOR
ARKADIN, THE DIMINUTIVE DOCTOR.
HE WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO
"TRANSPORT US TO THE DREAM- PLACE,"
WHERE HE ISN'T A STUNTED GEEK.

A PLACE WHERE HE CAN
GET HIS SADISTIC REVENGE
ON WOMEN FOR DOMESTICATING
HIM IN THE REAL WORLD.

ARKADIN --
I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE UP TO,
YOU SICK
HUMP!

AHEM... YES, AND I
FIND FOREBODING
PARTICULARLY SWEET
WHEN I PERSONALLY
INDUCE IT.

CAUSING
FEAR IS BUT ONE
OF MY MANY POTENT
GIFTS -- AS YOU
WILL SOON
WITNESS.

BUT I'VE
NO INTENTION OF
DEVOURING THE MAIN
COURSE -- YOU --
WITHOUT SAMPLING
SOME APPETIZERS
FIRST!

I'LL
START
WITH YOU,
ANY.

TELL THE
NEW SLUTTER.
HOW I STOKED THE
DELICIOUS DREAD
WITHIN YOU -- TELL
HER HOW I CAN MAKE
YOUR GREATEST
TERROR REAL!

IGNORE
THE MUMMY, MY
BEAUTY. SHE MAY
NOT FEEL PAIN, BUT
I CAN CONTROL HER,
AS I DO ALL THESE
LADIES -- AND
YOU.

YOU ARE
IMPRESSIVELY
BRAVE, BUT YOUR
INNER TERROR WAFTS
OFF YOU LIKE INTOXICATING
PERFUME. I FIND FEAR SO
DELICIOUSLY ATTRACTIVE
IN A WOMAN.

YOU WOULD
DIPSTICK.



LIKE THIS!

SNAKES!
GOD --
NO-O-O-O!



ARKADIN, YOU
LIMP LITTLE
WORM!

LEAVE
HER ALONE
AND PICK ON
SOMEONE WHO
CAN TAKE
IT!



YOU,
MS. VASKO?
CAN YOU TAKE
IT?

I CAN
DIVINE EVEN
YOUR GREATEST
FEAR -- SUCH
IS MY
DOMINANCE!



DIVINE
AWAY -- YOU
WON'T FIND
ANYTHING!

I
I

I'M RIGHT
AREN'T? YOUR
DOMINANCE IS
SHRIVELING AS
WE SPEAK



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
YOU ARE IMMUNE TO
ME -- BUT IT DOESN'T
TAKE A GENIUS TO GUESS
AT YOUR GREATEST
DREAD!

CONSIDERING
YOUR ORDEAL, A
FLAMING EXPLOSION
SHOULD QUICKLY
DISMANTLE THAT
UN-LADY-LIKE
RESOLVE!

FWOOOM

AAAAH--!



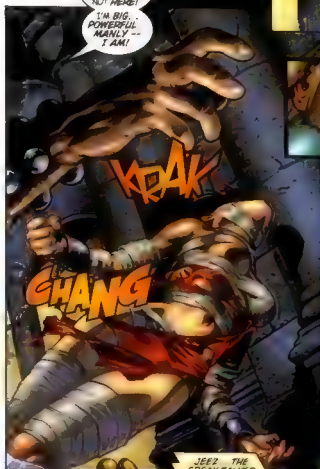
NOT SO MACAO
NOW, ARE YOU?
NOW YOU'LL BEND
LIKE ALL WOMEN
WHO FALL BEFORE
ME. HEH-HEH
BREAK EVEN
IF I WISH IT.
HAHROORN!

DELICIOUS...
BEING IN SUCH
A HORRIFIC
CONFLAGRATION
MUST BE SIMPLY
SEARING...
HEH.



SEEN
IT
DONE
IT
TWICE.

WITHOUT
PAIN, YOU'VE
GOT NO POWER
OVER ME,
ARKADIN -- JUST
LIKE THE REAL
WORLD!



NO! N-NO
ONE TALKS TO
ME LIKE THAT
NOT HERE!

I'M BIG...
POWERFUL
MAINLY --
I AM!



OH YEAH,
YOU'RE A REAL
MAN, ALRIGHT
SCUM!



SNEER
ALL YOU WANT
BEAUTY -- I'LL
SHOW YOU HOW
POWERFUL
I AM...

JUST
BEFORE I
MAKE YOU MY
LOVE-
SLAVE!



SEEZ THE
FREAK TALKED
LIKE SOME SORT OF
ROMANCE NOVELIST
ON ACID!

BUT IF HE KEPT GABBING, I
HOPE I COULD FIND A WAY
TO SHUT HIM UP, FOR GOOD.



NOW, ALL OF YOU -- FEEL YOUR FEARS... FILL THE AIR WITH YOUR HOPELESS SCREAMS -- AND THE HEAVY MIASMA OF YOUR DREAD!

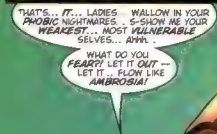
STIR ME TO MY CORE, SLAVES -- READY ME TO CONQUER THIS NEW BEAUTY!



I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THESE OTHERS, BUT WHAT -- TRAPPED IN THE NIGHTMARE REALM, I WAS COMPLETELY WITHOUT MY DARKCHYLDE POWER.

LINN --!

BUT ONE STRUGGLING VICTIM WASN'T NEARLY AS HELPLESS AS THE REST OF US



THAT'S... IT... LADIES, WALLOW IN YOUR PHOBIC NIGHTMARES... SHOW ME YOUR WEAKEST... MOST VULNERABLE SELVES... AHHA...

WHAT DO YOU FEAR? LET IT OUT -- LET IT... FLOW LIKE AMBROSIA!

IS IT CRIPPLING DISEASE...?



SKITTERING VERMIN?!

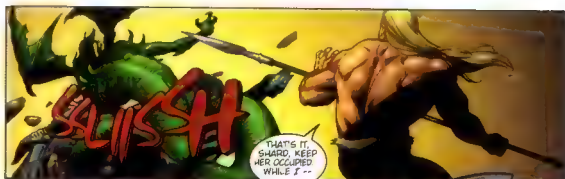
AGE AND DECREPITUDE?!

CRAWLING, DISGUSTING INSECTS -- OR BLINDNESS?!

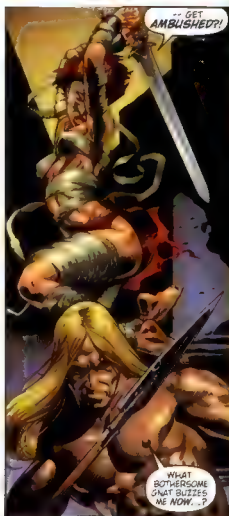
AGHHH --!!







THAT'S IT.
SWORD, KEEP
HER OCCUPIED
WHILE I --



-- GET
AMBUSHED?!



A GNAT
WITH A STING,
RATHOLE!
SKLEEESH!
NOOOO!

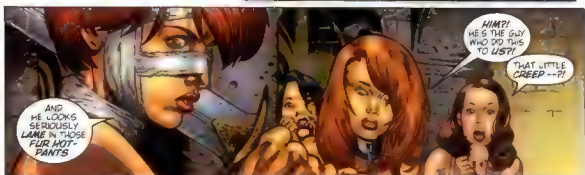
YAAAA!

KLAASSSHH



IT APPEARS
THAT YOU HAVE
SHATTERED THE
POOR CREATURE'S
DELUSION SELF-
IMAGE...

...TO REVEAL
HIS OWN WORST
FEARS -- THAT HE IS
EXACTLY AS PATHETIC
AS HE SUSPECTS



AND
HE LOOKS
SERIOUSLY
LAME IN THOSE
FUR HOT-
PANTS

HIM?!
HE'S THE GUY
WHO DID THIS
TO US?!

THAT LITTLE
CREEP --?!





THE DEVIL'S
LACKIES ARE
FINISHED -- CAN
YOU STOP
HIM?

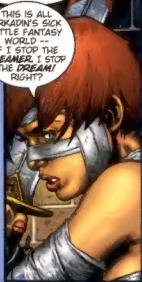
I AM
NOT SURE! IN
THIS FORM, MY
INSTINCTS ARE TO
HELP HIM! I'M
FIGHTING TWO
BATTLES
HERE!



"THE ONLY SURE WAY
TO STOP HIM IS TO END
THE DREAM THAT
GIVES THIS PLACE ITS
SUBSTANCE!"

AH, SMELL
THAT FOUL
EARTHIAN AIR! IT IS...
WONDERFUL!

THIS IS ALL
ARKADIN'S SICK
LITTLE FANTASY
WORLD --
IF I STOP THE
DREAMER, I STOP
THE DREAM!
RIGHT?



FIND
OUT.

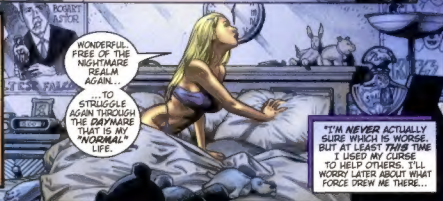
I'M
ON IT!
OH...
NO-O-O-
O-O!



WAIT...
WHAT ARE
THEY DOING?
THEY CAN NOT
STOP ME! THEY
WILL NOT!



CHUCK





-- AWAKE?!
AND
ARKADIN --?



DEAD. BUT
NOT NEARLY AS
KAPUT AS WHAT'S
LEFT OF
GALLOWGLASS.

BLEH --!

ARKADIN
WAS A MAJOR
SKEEV, BUT
DID HE
DESERVE
THIS...?



YOU
BET.

SKRUFF

LIKE MOST DELUSIONS OF ADEQUACY,
ARKADIN'S PATHETIC DREAMS SLEW AWAY
LIKE SO MUCH MASH, LEAVING ONLY AN
EMPTY SHELL -- AND QUESTIONS THAT NO
ONE WOULD EVER CARE TO ANSWER.



W-WOW!
WE ALL HAD
THE WEIRDEST
DREAM!

AND
YOU WERE
THERE,
LADY...

YEAH.
SO WAS
TINMAN AND THE
COWARDLY
LION.

BUT
YOU'RE ALL
SAFE FROM
V'ARK -- OR
ARKADIN --
FOREVER.



AND IF
WE'RE FORTUNATE
WE'LL ALL SLEEP A
LOT BETTER FROM NOW
ON -- I CERTAINLY
DON'T EVER WANT
TO GO BACK TO
THAT PLACE...

...THOUGH
I DOUBT OUR
ANGEL OF MERCY,
ARIEL, WILL EVER
GET THAT
LUCKY...

I ALMOST FELT SORRY
FOR THE TOUGH KID, BUT
SHE SEEMED TO BE
HANDLING WHATEVER
CROSS SHE'D BEEN STUCK
WITH WELL ENOUGH -- EVEN
USING IT TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

AND THAT I
COULD RESPECT.

End